

PRIVILEGE SPEECH

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**TOWARDS AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

By Councilor Pilar C. Braga, PhD

Madam President, last February, the Committee on Energy, Transportation and Communication conducted a pre-summit conference for energy efficiency and conservation issues. The result of this pre-summit awakened several sectors and on their own, they initiated workshops to come up with proposed policy legislations on energy efficiency and conservation which the city may consider to adapt later on. Thus, instead of coming up with an all-together ENERGY SUMMIT, what we did was to do an Energy Summit by sector, which to my mind was more effective because of the focused group discussions that deepened the understanding of the issues involved.

The entire month of June has been so enlightening for me – I have had the chance to be part of two major undertakings designed to increase awareness, mobilize, activate and come up with feasible programs towards energy efficiency and conservation. Both of these gatherings were attended by the government, business, academe, manufacturing and industrial sectors that are all concern over issues on oil, energy, and environmental issues.

The gathering at Ateneo de Davao University last June 18 and 19 tackled very important issues on energy efficiency and conservation and at the end all the participants articulated the

need for our city government to come up with a holistic energy efficiency and conservation program as a response to the impending energy crisis.

Last June 27 to 29, the Mindanao Design and Construction Fair was held and I was invited to speak before architects and those involved in the construction business and industry. They were also very much concern about energy conservation and the environment and how this two elements could bring about creating a Legacy in Building Technology.

This coming July 4 another gathering would be conducted specifically to respond to issues on energy and the environment – the forum will be on Setting Local Directions in the Transport Sector for Climate Change. The issues would still be energy efficiency and conservation, climate change and the transport sector.

Madame President, two central thoughts have emerged from all these workshops and conferences.

ONE - It is high time that we make energy conservation a way of life.

From all probabilities, this is the only practical solution that we have to respond to the emerging crucial issue of energy crisis. We need to change our perspectives – we are not running out of energy; we are running out of money to pay the growing energy supply system.

Three strategies for energy conservation should be explored:

1. Leak-plugging – this means eliminating inefficient consumption practices
2. machine switching – as in changing to more efficient and energy conserving machines and appliances
3. belt-tightening – doing things the simpler way by walking or biking

We need to make energy conservation our way of life because...

1. it would cushion the impact of rising energy prices
2. it would reduce expenditures on fuel and electricity without sacrificing productivity
3. it would contribute to the protection of the environment

TWO – the other idea that has come of time is the green building concept. Green building is a global movement to promote the use of environmentally friendly products and practices in construction, remodeling, and repair of buildings and structures. The goal is to match materials and activities to building design to minimize the overall environmental impact and contribute to sustainable development.

We own and maintain a wide range of buildings and facilities, including administrative and office buildings, park facilities, health clinics and hospitals, fire and police stations, and convention centers.

At our disposal are a variety of administrative, regulatory, and financing tools that can help us develop and operate these building resources in a sustainable and environment-friendly manner.

Madame President, with these two vital issues on mind, I am therefore proposing to pass a resolution to enact an ordinance entitled "Institutionalizing an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program for Davao City."

Thank you, Madame President.

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City Councilor